

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 240650Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2404

INFO CNO WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MARR, US, AS

SUBJ: BARNARD PRESS INTERVIEW ON RETURN TO AUSTRALIA

1. AUSTRALIAN MEDIA HAVE CARRIED SINCE JAN. 23 SELECTIVE STORIES BASED ON BARNARD'S TALK WITH THE PRESS ON HIS RETURN TO AUSTRALIA. BARNARD COMES THROUGH ON TELEVISION AS VERY POSITIVELY IMPRESSED WITH TREATMENT HE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON AND WITH RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS ON NORTHWEST CAPE STATION.

2. ON SUBJECT OF STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS BARNARD REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED AGAIN PUBLICLY THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD HAVE NO CONTROL OVER MESSAGES RELAYED BY U.S. AUTHORITIES THROUGH STATION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT STRATEGIC CONSULTATIONS HOWEVER WOULD PROVIDE GOA WITH UNDERSTANDING OF WORLD WIDE U.S. STRATEGIC CONCERNS AS THEY MAY AFFECT AUSTRALIAN STATIONS. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION HE INDICATED HE FELT AUSTRALIA BECAUSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS COULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A WAR AGAINST ITS WILL BUT THAT THERE WOULD ALWAYS "BE PROBLEMS" WITH REGARD TO RELAY OF MESSAGES THROUGH STATION.

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3. COMMENT: BARNARD'S REMARKS HAVE OCCASIONED NO PARTICULAR COMMENT IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS THUS FAR WHICH OVER PAST TWO WEEKS HAS COME TO ACCEPT FACT THAT U.S. MESSAGES THROUGH STATION CANNOT PRACTICABLY BE MONITORED BY GOA. HIS ASSURANCE ON THE USEFULNESS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE U.S. ON STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS HAS BEEN GREETED WITH PRAISE BY MOST AUSTRALIAN MEDIA.
HARROP

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